

SECOND DISTRICT OF PTA SLATES FIFTH-NINTH CONFERENCE APRIL 13

The Second District of the Texas Congress of Parents and Teachers will hold its fifth-ninth conference in McKinney on April 13 and 14. The general theme will be "This Way PTA".

After the business meeting on Tuesday, Mrs. Kimball will present highlights from the conference theme. James Hill of Irving, youth protection chairman, Texas PTA, will lead an "Idea Exchange Workshop" which will include audience participation. The final part of the afternoon's program will be a parliamentary skit--"How Do You Rate?" conducted by Mrs. Rita Crump, Vocational Homemaker.

There will be a banquet honoring Life Members and School Administrators at 6:30 p.m. The featured speaker will be Lee D. Herring, vice-president of the Grand Prairie State Bank. He served on the Grand Prairie Independent School Board for six years. He is noted for his humor and has made more than 100 speeches all over the Southwest in the past year. Entertainment will be provided by the North Baptist Senior High

Choir and Mrs. J.B. Koonce, both from McKinney.

The final session on Wednesday afternoon will be opened with an inspiration by John J. Voelke of DeSoto, Murphy Martin, president of United We Stand, will be the featured speaker. Mrs. David Henslee, area vice-president from Greenville, will preside. Awards will be presented to local PTA's and Councils in the areas of yearbook, parent and family life education, evaluation and preschool. Special awards will be made for magazines and membership.

Registration for the conference is being handled by area vice-president Mrs. Waymon Rose of Richardson.



We want to thank the voters of Pilot Point Independent School District for their vote of confidence in Saturday's election.

We hope for your continued support.

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The 'Little Brown Spider'

Why does his bite excite an over-reaction in man's body?

The way the body sometimes over-kill invaders--and damages itself in the process--is being researched in immunology studies under way at The University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston.

Pediatrics researcher Dr. Clifton Wayne Smith is studying in depth the bite of the little brown spider.

The bite of the spider excites an over-reaction: An amount of venom so small that it might be safely ignored excites so strenuous a response that the body kills healthy tissue, sometimes over an area the size of a man's hand.

Destructive Armies
Dr. Smith hopes to find out how and why the body calls forth such self-destructive armies of white blood cells. He refers to that aspect of his infection and immunization research as "a kind of hobby I have indulged in over the past several years."

The Brown Spider lives in the Southwest U.S. where the climate is warm. Its bite is scarcely ever considered a medical emergency. The venom almost invariably causes the same series of reactions. It is seldom fatal.

Tiny Fangs
"The fangs are so tiny that the bite is usually not noticed at the time that it occurs," Dr. Smith explained. "It causes practically no sensation."

He added:
"The venom is deposited very superficially, near the top of the skin. Within 24 hours, there is a characteristic blister and then the site aches and burns, sometimes intensely. Then the area becomes violaceous (blue), the blister breaks and the discolored skin develops a black eschar. In every case there is always this characteristic black scab. Always. I have worked with hundreds of animals in these studies and there is always the characteristic black scab. If there is not the black scab, the bite is not that of the Brown Spider."

"The scab may be the size of a pin head. It may form a necrotic--dead--area, the size of a man's hand. The average reaction is a dime-sized scab which lasts from a few days to

a week before sloughing off to reveal an ulcer. This ulcer looks like a hole with a raised, pearly border. It becomes a draining wound which oozes. It may ooze a pinkish fluid. This heals very gradually, taking from two to three weeks to a month. In one case the healing process took more than a hundred days. And it leaves a scar.

"One little girl in South America, was bitten on the face, near her eye, and the scar contracted severely enough to be disfiguring. But this is unusual."

Also unusual, but possible, are such systemic reactions as a rash which might envelop the entire body or an even more serious reaction which might damage the kidneys.

"There is very occasionally a hemolytic reaction--a kind of hypersensitivity which might break up red blood cells. In that case, there would be symptomatic blood in the urine," Dr. Smith explained. "In most cases, the reaction to the bite is not this severe, however. Documented fatalities due to Brown Spider bite are extremely rare."

"So far, the treatment usually is surgical excision of the ulcer and a skin graft to

prevent scarring," he said. "In cases requiring more than that, the steroids (hormone derivatives) are used to treat cases where there is a wider, systemic reaction or where there is intense inflammation."

As part of his research, Dr. Smith milks the venom from the spider by shocking it with electrodes.

Placing The Blame
His latest experiments demonstrate that the white blood cells are, partly, responsible for the tissue damage. In animals in which most of the white blood cells are removed, the venom did not cause bleeding or a significant amount of dead tissue.

In other words, if physicians could determine a way to interfere with the body's calling too many overly strenuous white blood cells into action, they would have a way to keep the body from injuring itself by over-fighting an invader. Considerable evidence supports this concept that the very cells needed to defend a body may inflict certain types of tissue injury. They just do not seem to know when to quit.

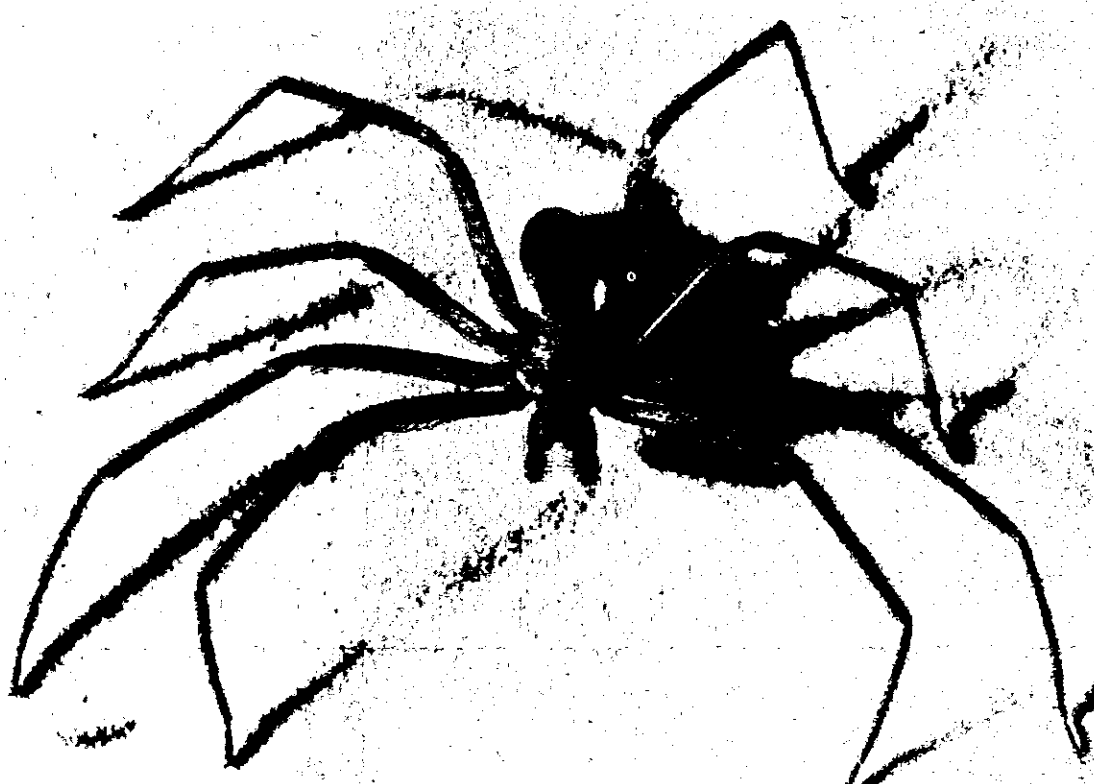
Parallels To Be Drawn
"What we are concerned with is learning how and why

the defense mechanisms are so over-stimulated. There are parallels to be drawn with other infections," Dr. Smith explained.

In some infections, the troublemakers are certain antibodies which over-attack, or attack the wrong thing, such as the kidney, which might be injured by over-zealous antibodies.

A variety of nephritis (glomerulonephritis) is characterized by inflammation of the capillary loops in the glomeruli of the kidney, as an over reaction to certain infections. There are serum sicknesses triggered by this sort of too-strenuous attack by the body's protective mechanisms.

Several Generations
Study of the Brown Spider's bite is not new. Dr. Smith found a male and a female Brown Spider in the basement of the Ashbel Smith Building on the UTMB campus years ago and raised "a good many generations of spiders, for research purposes," he reports. Furthermore, "there is a report of a spider bite lesion very likely to have been due to Brown Spider in the Texas Medical Journal of around 1895," he commented.



PTA MEETING IS SLATED TUESDAY NIGHT

The Pilot Point PTA meets Tuesday night, April 13, at 7:30 p.m. at the school lunch room.

A full report of the Volleyball Tournament will be given. Also, the nominating committee will report on officers for next year.

USE
CLASSIFIEDS

TO THE CITIZENS OF THE PILOT POINT INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

I would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every voter for the support and interest that was shown in the School Board election this past week. My sincere appreciation for the support that was given me.

It is my desire to do my best to represent the people of this Community to the best of my ability and I hope that we can go forward in a unified concern for the progress of this area.

Sincerely,
HAROLD PEMBERTON



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MR. AVERAGE OPERATING LOAN BORROWER IS INTRODUCED IN U.S.

"Mr. Average Operating Loan Borrower" recently was introduced to American by the Farmers Home Administration. He didn't make a personal appearance, but his credentials were impressive. "Mr. O.L. Borrower" is the statistical average from a sampling of the Farmers Home Administration's more than 90,000 active Farm Operating Loan borrowers. This is the man with financing problems commercial credit couldn't touch. Loans from FHA -- the rural credit service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture -- have permitted him to exercise his abilities and improve the living level of his family.

"Mr. Average O.L. Borrower" is 39 years old, married and has three children. His

gross cash receipts average \$18,840, up 62.6 per cent from \$11,590 five years ago. He earns some money from part time work, but mostly his receipts are from farm sales of \$15,820 -- sales usually made in nearby towns.

He puts \$10,670 per year back into the community for operating expenses and about \$3,380 for family living. This gives him an average net income of \$8,170.

Much of the drudgery of Mr. O.L. Borrower's farm work is largely a thing of the past, due to mechanization, but his day's work is still full. Machinery must be maintained, livestock must be fed, crops must be planted and harvested, and buildings kept in repair. As always, farming is still a risk. A hurricane, flood, or blizzard can wipe out his farm assets. A wet spring or a too-hot summer can limit his production. And he can never know what day prices will plummet.

"Mr. O.L. Borrower" is ambitious and hard-working. His net worth has increased by \$5,720, from \$12,660 in 1964 to \$18,380 in 1969. He has acquired property -- real estate, more than \$22,000 livestock, more than \$9,000, and machinery and equipment, \$9,760. All his property together is worth \$46,370. He has debts, too. They amount to \$27,990, but that still gives him a healthy increase in net worth.

"Mr. O.L. Borrower" keeps a nice, reasonably modern home for his wife and family, too. Sixty-six per cent of the O.L. borrowers had sound housing at the beginning of the survey period, and they kept it. Another 15 per cent moved from

dilapidated or deteriorating homes to good, sound ones. Nearly 90 per cent of the homes had running water and modern plumbing. Less than 2 per cent slipped from good to bad in quality of housing.

Most homes of O.L. borrowers had real necessities in 1964, such as stoves, refrigerators, and washing machines, but 27 per cent had no freezers. By 1969, only 12 per cent were without freezers. In 1964, 18 per cent had no sewing machines, but by 1969 only 11 per cent did not have them. In 1964, 23 per cent of their homes had no television sets, but by 1969, only 7 per cent were without TV.

There may be no one man among Farmers Home Administration's 90,000 operating loan borrowers who fits every facet of the statistical image conjured by the progress report for 1969, but on the average he is a hard worked, a sound citizen and a credit to his community.

There are thousands nearly like Mr. Average all over the United States, on truck farms, dairy farms, and ranches, large and small. Nearly all of them started practically from scratch. They and thousands

of others before them have become successful farm operators with help from the Farmers Home Administration.

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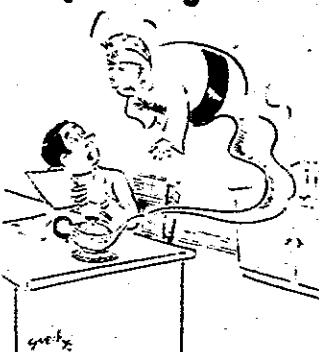
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